

Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District
Monthly Staff Report

Name: Paul Gier

Months: August & September

Agriculture (272.0 hrs)

- creating Tier III plans that have resulted from meeting with cooperators seeking farmstead improvements. Site visits to existing cooperators seeking assistance in manure storage projects, silage leachate mitigation systems, heavy use and barn yard concrete pad areas, cover crops. Meeting with new clients interested in AEM participation as a result of increased communication working among and between farmers.

STAIEP round 2 began August 01st. Have met with perspective cooperators expressing interest and information on applying for STAIEP grants. Currently 10 applications have been submitted to our district, total funding requests at \$742,880.00.

Water Quality (0 hrs)

- I spent no time on Water Quality projects this month.

Stormwater (3 hrs)

- Spent time reviewing Stormwater projects for Carter Creek in Newfield and Trumbulls Corner Creek project in Enfield.

Invasive Species (0 hrs)

I spent no time working on Invasive species projects

District Operations (18 hrs)

Staff Meetings (*Goal/Action/Activity)

- Attending scheduled staff meetings during August and September

General Office operations

- Answering phone calls, emails.
- Continued training on AEM Tier 3, 4, and 5 planning.
- Attended Upper Susquehanna Coalition Ag meeting in Owego NY office. Meeting held with USC staff on districts efforts toward sediment and nutrient runoff mitigation. Discussion on riparian buffers, cover crops, and conservation tillage efforts on farms in the upper Susquehanna and Chenango watersheds.

Personnel Development/Training (* Goal/Action/Activity) (57 hours)

- Attended pasture management and grazing workshop training at Kingbird Farm, Tioga NY. Attended by farmers and CCE staff. Excellent workshop on multispecies pasture management and livestocking rates regarding grazing and stockpiling considerations. Focus given on watering options and fence management, and pasture grass species selection.

Soil Health and reduced tillage practices were discussed at the Cornell Organic Farm Workshop held in August. Attended by more than 70 area farmers and education staff. CCE, NRCS, Soil & Water District staff present.

Earned Income (0 hours)

Education & Outreach (33 hours)

- August was a very busy month with 57 hours of education attended. Ag and Markets training held in Cobleskill NY for Tier 2 worksheets involving vegetable and small fruit production. Cornell Soil Health workshop held at Freeville Organic Research Farm. Soil Health seminar/workshop held at Jamie Bakers farm, Ithaca.
- September training was received from the Corn Silage Harvest Workshop held at Maple Lane Farms, Tully, NY. Training provided by SCNY field crops team. Training also held at KingBird Farm in Tioga NY. Training in soil science, surveying, and conservation district employees association was received at the 2016 Conservation Skills Workshop held at Cortland County Soil & Water District office.
- Outreach activities for August included attending and staffing the Soil & Water tent at Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls NY. Outreach was also given while staffing the booth at the NYS Fair in Syracuse NY.